



LOUISIANA OUTDOORS FOREVER

Louisiana Outdoors Forever Program was established with the passage of House Bill 762 during the 2022 Legislative Session. The purpose of this program is to provide funding for outdoor conservation projects in the State of Louisiana. House Bill 406 provides \$10 million in funding for the program's first year.

Louisiana Outdoors Forever is intended to serve as a matching source for other funding. This program was designed to help Louisiana projects be more competitive by providing additional funding or match to maximize other grant applications. These projects will expand the footprint of conservation in the state, re-store valuable habitat, provide for land management, and enhance public access. The state's \$10 million initial investment is seed money to establish the program and gauge the need for future investment. Preference will be given to projects based how well they meet the scoring criteria but the Project Selection Board will also consider the dollars the project will bring to Louisiana.

Program Eligibility

Project Applicants include:	Eligible Project Types:
State Agencies	Land conservation of important natural areas, including fish and wildlife habitat.
Political Subdivisions of the state	Historic properties adjacent to or integral to habitat restoration or enhancement.
Local governing authorities	Working land, farms, and forested land.
Nongovernmental organizations working in coordination with public agencies	Water quality projects related to land conservation or land management, including those lands that protect drinking water supplies.
	Recreational properties related to important natural areas and public use.

The Process

Two Phases	Expected Timeline	
Phase 1: Pre-Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should explain the project, project benefits, and process to accomplish said benefits Reviewed for Eligibility 	Request for Proposals	March 20
	Deadline to Submit Pre-Applications	May 19
	Eligible projects are invited by the Technical Advisory Board to complete a Full Application.	June 19
Phase 2: Full Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should meet all criteria as outlined in the LOF Program Manual and include supporting documentation Reviewed, Scored, and Ranked for funding consideration 	Full Applications are due 90 days from the day invitation is sent.	September 17

What's Next

The Technical Advisory Board scores and ranks projects and submits findings to the Project Selection Board. The Project selection board will approve projects* for funding. Applicants will be invited to LDWF for a financial workshop and to sign a Project Agreement. Grant Recipients have 24 months to complete the approved project from the project agreement date.

*Projects can receive contingent approval by the Project Selection Board if due diligence is needed. More information can be found in the LOF Program Manual.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Required to include in pre-application:

Cover Letter – This official letter is the instrument demonstrating support and authority to submit a pre-application, signed by a ranking authorizing representative of the entity (board chairperson, commissioner, mayor, etc.). It must be on official letterhead.

Project Title

Project Category/Categories

Project Location

Project Map (in addition to the 7 page maximum)

Project Description including benefits related to project category and surrounding community/state

Generalized Project Budget Worksheet

Responses to each of the evaluation criteria:

Total project cost

Total funding requested

Match commitment(s) – including type, status (committed or potential), and source

Accordance /non-conflict with existing state, local, and federal plans (list which plan(s))

Timeline – time to complete, time to realization of conservation benefits, and if the project could be completed by close of this funding cycle

Estimated Appraisal (if applicable, in addition to the 7 page limit on letters of maximum)

Optional documents to include:

Letters of Support

Letter of financial commitment from sponsors and partners

Requirements for a Full Application can be found in the LOF Program Manual at www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/louisiana-outdoors-forever



Technical Advisory Board contains subject experts from the following:	Project Selection Board is composed of the following members or their designee:
(a) The Office of the Governor.	(1) Governor
(b) The Division of Administration.	(2) The executive assistant to the governor for coastal activities
(c) The Office of Coastal Activities.	(3) The lieutenant governor from the Office of State Parks
(d) The Office of State Parks.	(4) The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry
(e) The Department of Agriculture and Forestry.	(5) The secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality
(f) The Department of Environmental Quality.	(6) The secretary of the Department of Natural Resources
(g) The Department of Natural Resources.	(7) The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
(h) The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.	(8) The speaker of the House of Representatives
Up to three representatives of nonprofit conservation organizations. Currently they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Nature Conservancy• Audubon Louisiana• The Conservation Fund	(9) The president of the Senate